NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

February 28, 1997

IMPROVED BUS SERVICE FOR MUSEUM CAMPUS!

Effective Sunday, March 9, 1997, the CTA will extend service during day and night hours on the #12 Roosevelt Road bus to the Museum Campus. Enclosed is a map of the extended route, which will provide a direct connection from the Green, Orange and Red line trains at the Roosevelt stations to the Grant Park Museum Campus. (The extended service will not include owl service.)

SERVICE EVERY 10 TO 15 MINUTES	Weekdays	Saturday	Sunday/holidays
Roosevelt east to Museums	4:05 a - 11:05 p	4:55 a - 11:05 p	5:55 a - 11:05 p
Museums west to Roosevelt	5:00a - 11:45 p	5:35 a - 11:45 p	6:35 a - 11:45 p

Service via Michigan, 14th and Indiana to the Central Station complex will be discontinued. Please use the #3 King Drive (local) buses for service to this area.

ADLER BEATS FIELD

Softball -- NOT!
It's the transportation survey!

More Adler staff turned in the transportation survey than did Field staff. And they have fewer staff and volunteers. The CTA gives a lot of weight to this type of survey, and our lack of response is a drag on the whole Museum campus effort to get better CTA service here.

ALL STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS -- whether you currently ride CTA or not -- are requested to fill out the transportation survey in this week's *Natural News* and return it to **Pat Phillips** (Finance).

WANT BETTER PUBLIC TRANS SERVICE TO THE MUSEUMS? **Please** -- return the survey! **Thanks!**

The *Natural News* deadline is ***Tuesday*** at noon -- has been for years. Please comply. Thanks.

CHARLES DARWIN TO APPEAR AT FIELD MUSEUM

On March 6 in Lecture Hall 2 at the stroke of NOON, Charles R. Darwin will meet with The Field Museum Staff, Volunteers, and curiosity seekers. Although Darwin is most put off by crowds and loathes large gatherings, he has consented to answer questions about his science, family, and times. We are not sure just how Mr. Darwin has been able to arrange this leave from Westminster Abbey. He did spend two years as a student in Scotland and perhaps Dolly was not the first mammal cloned!

Another possibility is that **John Wagner,** Department of Education has again donned his Victorian vestiture and has the gall to play act once again. Since he is listed as a "Road Scholar" in this seasons Illinois Humanities Council speakers bureau program booklet, perhaps you should drop by with suggestions.

HELP NEEDED! FOR DINO FAMILIES PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

The Time Keepers, a made-to-order play by Green Light Theater, is one part of the Education Department's programming for the **Dinosaur Families** exhibit. Green Light is doing its first run-through of this performance on **Sunday, March 2, at noon in Lecture Hall 2.** Staff and their families are invited to participate. The play is written for children ages four to twelve. It deals with paleontology and dinosaurs, and includes material about the Egg Mountain component of the summer exhibit. The director, Domenick Danza, encourages input at this time. Please come and bring your kids.

All staff members are also invited to a review of planned educational activities for **Dinosaur Families.** We'll get together over lunch on **Tuesday, March 4, at noon in Harris Center**. This will include talking about the activities -- mainly volunteer-led -- given in the exhibit, in Stanley Field Hall and outside on the Museum campus. **-- Joyce Matuszewich**

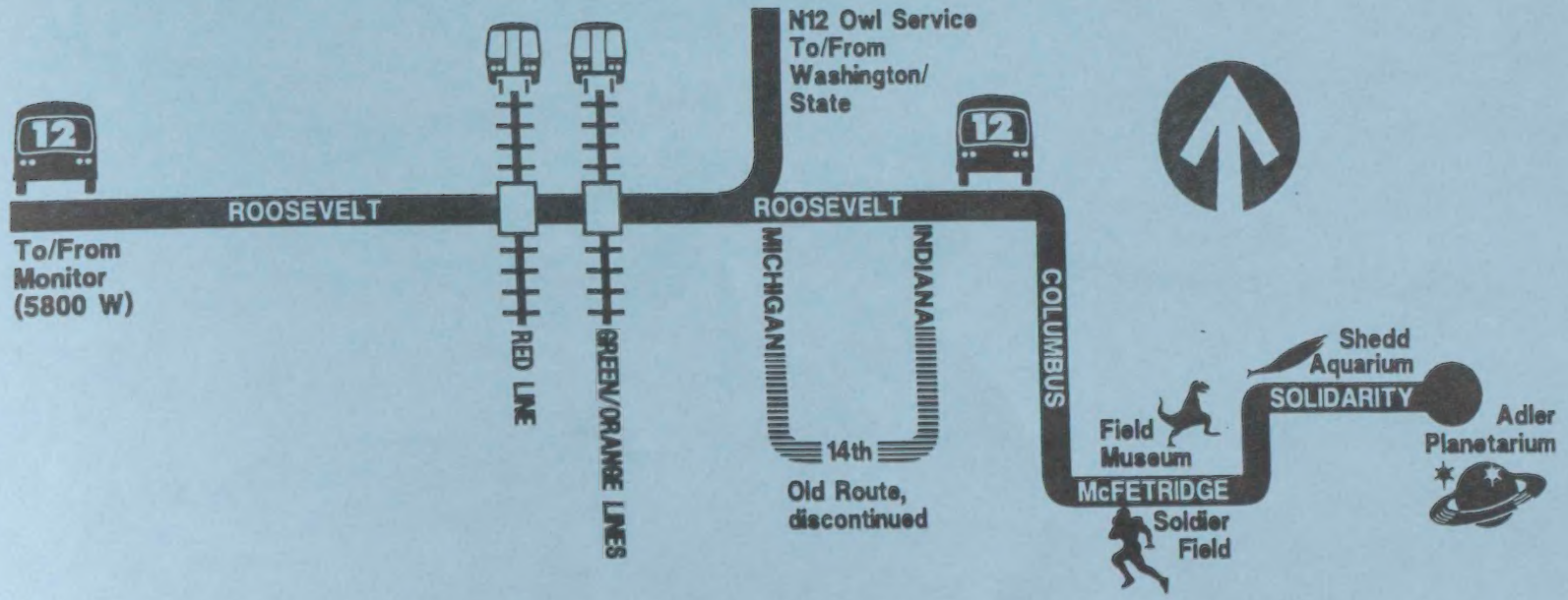
Bridal Expo hosted by The Field Museum

Wednesday, March 5, 1997, from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Fashion show at 8:00 p.m.

One hundred vendors will participate in this Bridal Expo, sponsored by the Bridal Signature group. For ticket information please contact Hope in Special Events (x864).

#12 ROOSEVELT

Effective Sunday, March 9, 1997:



TRANSPORTATION SURVEY FOR EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

FOR THE ADLER PLANETARIUM, THE SHEDD AQUARIUM, THE FIELD MUSEUM, AND THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

The purpose of this survey is to determine what C.T.A routes are most important to you in traveling to the museums. We anticipate that the C.T.A will improve bus service into the Campus and for that reason we would like to prioritize increased service.

Please fill out this brief survey even if you do not now use C.T.A.

1. Do you currently use the C.T.A. to come to the Museum Campus Monday through Friday? _____yes ___X___no

   On weekends?_____yes ___X___no

   If so, do you use such service:

   5 days a week_____

   10-20 days per month_____

   Less than 10 days per month_____.

2. Do you use bus only?_____ Bus and C.T.A. rail?_____

3. Does the frequency of your use of the C.T.A. vary by season?

   Yes_____ No_____Use more in summer_____winter_____

4. Do you travel (by auto or transit) to the Museum Campus from: _____North _____South _____West ___X___Northwest _____Southwest.

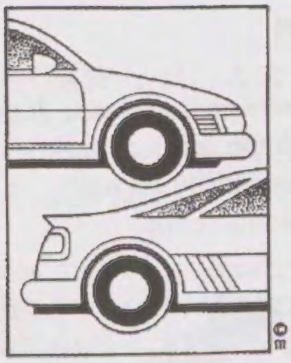
5. Do you travel to the Museum Campus from outside of the City?_____yes ___X___no

6. Is any part of your travel on Metra? _____yes ___X___no

7. If C.T.A. bus service were offered from the Union and Northwestern train stations onto the Museum Campus during rush hours, would you use such a service_____yes___X___no

8. If you do not currently use C.T.A service to come to work, would you do so if bus service were provided onto the Campus (to the door of your museum or office)___yes ___X___no
   If yes, how many days per week_____?

Please return this survey to Pat Phillips at the Field Museum by February 24.



Q: Where are the 1997 parking stickers?

A: Look again -- they are the 1996 stickers.

Why? We will eventually lose the north lot. We have an ample supply of 1996 stickers. We support recycling. And we are cost-conscious. Therefore -- we decided not to purchase 1997 replacements, but to continue issuing the 1996 stickers.

Records: All sticker numbers and vehicle indentification will remain active, and will continue to be active even when we move to the Soldier Field lot. Thus we will still be able to identify vehicles and notify staff in case of lights left on or other problems.

Questions? Call **Ron Cundiff,** Security (x856)

Tax Time Already???

It's getting to be that time of the year again and it won't be long until April 15 is here. If you need some tax help...

General assistance with federal tax information is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through TeleTax - 1-800-829-4477 (312-886-9614 in Chicago). TeleTax provides pre-recorded information on 150 topics as well as the status of your refund.

Personal assistance is available by using community-based programs such as Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE).

Need forms? Visit your local post office or library. If you want forms mailed to you, call 1-800-829-3676.

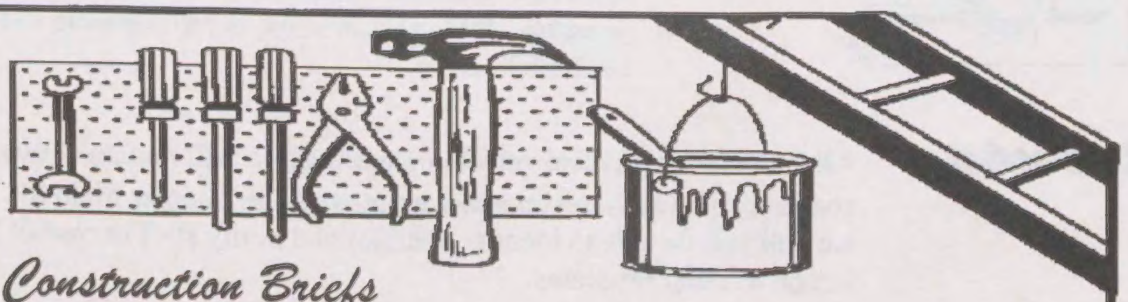
On-line information is available through the IRS homepage on the internet at http://www.irs.ustreas.gov.

Still need help? Call toll-free assistance at 1-800-829-1040 Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

OFFICER OF THE DAY for the coming weekend will be: **Diane White** on Saturday, March 1 and Sunday, March 2.

NEEDED: Accurate account numbers

The Public Services Department needs accurate account numbers to process chargebacks. *If the account number is not provided* before the end of the pay period in which the services were rendered, the requesting department's number will be applied. The responsibility for any subsequent budget adjustments within the requesting departments will be their own. ***Questions?*** Call **Tina Augustus** in Security (x238).



Construction Briefs

Loading dock renovation will begin March 17. The dock will remain open for shipping but will be more difficult to access so better coordination will be needed for events or large shipments in particular. Two minor associated projects are the stack and skylight

In Stanley Field Hall, the **east side women's washroom** will be closed for three to four weeks while new entrance (from vestibule of Hall 5) is under construction.

Visitor Services area is scheduled for completion in mid-March.

Special Exhibits Hall is substantially complete and work has begun on the next temporary exhibit.

Demolition has begun in the new **Special Events area** (old Visitor Services area) with the completion scheduled for mid-August.

Congratulations to volunteers **George and Edith Wolnak** on the birth of their second grandchild, **Maximilian Lewis Wolnak**. Reports from California are that mother and child are doing fine and that the Wolnak's will be back at the Museum at the end of March.

The Chase is on! Many staff have already signed up for the 1997 Chase Corporate Challenge, to be held Thursday, August 7, 1997 in the evening. More information will be forthcoming in future issues of the *Natural News.*

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

CONFERENCE ON LOCAL BIODIVERSITY

The first-ever educator's conference on local biodiversity was held February 5-7 and Field Museum staff played a key role. Sponsored by Chicago Wilderness, the goals of the conference were: I) to provide all educators with information about Chicago area biodiversity issues; ii) to share teaching methods and information gained from the 1996 Chicago World Wildlife Fund Summer Institute; iii) to promote collaborative biodiversity education projects among Chicago Wilderness partners; iv) to disseminate new research on the roadblocks to teaching biodiversity and on reaching a variety of audiences; and v) to develop conference proceedings to be used as a model for other conferences.

The Rice Wildlife Research Station presented the backdrop for a gala opening reception, followed by the conference keynote in Simpson Theatre. Thane Maynard of the Cincinnati Zoo was welcomed and introduced by Vice President, Academic Affairs **Peter Crane**, and presented a lively talk on "Global Biodiversity." The Conference continued on Thursday and Friday at the USEPA's Great Lakes Center, where more than 165 participants engaged in sessions, plenary addresses and break-out discussions. **Pam Wrenn**, Education, and **Doug Stotz**, Environmental and Conservation Programs (ECP), presented a well attended session on "How is a Conservation or Restoration Plan Developed?" **Carol Fialkowski**, ECP, and **Phil Hanson**, Education, served on the conference planning team. Thanks to Phil for making all the arrangements for such a successful opening event.

NEWTON & THAYER BRING HOME THE BEETLES

Associate Curator **Al Newton** and Adjunct Curator **Margaret Thayer** (both Zoology) just returned from two months in Chile, where they collected material for their studies of the phylogeny and biogeography of rove beetles (Staphylinidae) and their relatives in the southern end of the world. At eighty different localities from the capital, Santiago, through Chiloé Island (700 miles south), they collected 325 separate samples of insects and arachnids -- including processing nearly 700 pounds of sifted litter with Berlese funnels. It will take a while to find out how many tens of thousands of specimens they brought back! For the first week, they were joined by Elizabeth Arias, a Chilean graduate student at the University of California, Davis, who has extensive field experience and local contacts in Chile. Many of the species Margaret and Al collected are very rare in collections, and little has been known of their habits, so they also gathered valuable ecological information.

Most Chilean species in this group occur nowhere else, and many higher-ranking groups (genera and even subfamilies) are also endemic to Chile. From morphological studies, many of these appear to be phylogenetically rather isolated and thus are difficult to place within the family as a whole. Al and Margaret collected specimens of many of these odd groups (and many others) and preserved them so their DNA can be extracted and sequenced. These will be used in a collaborative project with Assistant Curator **Bill Ballard** (Zoology) and Biochemistry Laboratory Technician **Lisa Grismer**, combining molecular data and new morphological data

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CONTINUED

to help unravel the higher-level phylogeny of staphylinids worldwide. Similarly-preserved specimens of other odd endemic beetle groups will be sent off to eager colleagues at the University of Arizona, Harvard University, and the American Museum of Natural History for use in their research.

In a break from fieldwork, after setting up traps at eighteen sites in three weeks Al and Margaret spent a week in Valdivia at a stimulating multi disciplinary conference, "Southern Temperate Biota and Ecosystems: Past, Present, and Future," where they both presented papers on aspects of their research on southern temperate staphylinoids. After a week in the city, they were glad to get back into the field, despite the rain and even hail they ran into in some places! They also visited collections and colleagues at the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural and Universidad Metropolitana de Ciencias in Santiago and the Universidad Austral de Chile in Valdivia.

DAVID REESE AWARDED GRANT

Adjunct Curator David Reese (Anthropology) has received a grant from The Institute for Aegean Prehistory. The grant will support two months of research and analysis on shells collected during 1922-1930 Swedish excavations at Asine (Greece) and animal bones and shell from excavations (1930s) at Troy (modern-day Turkey). The research will be carried out in Sweden where these collections are housed.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday, February 18, 1997 was delivered by **Michael Nedbal,** Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Department of Geology, Field Museum. Mike discussed his research with **John Flynn,** Chair, Department of Geology, into the evolutionary relationships of carnivores. Mike combined morphological data from extant and fossil taxa with molecular data from cytochrome B, 12sRNA, and intron 1 of transthyretin to show monophyly of Carnivora and: 1) within the Feliformia, the civet is basal and Viverridae is paraphyletic; 2) within Caniformia, the musteloids are the sister group to the red panda; 3) within Caniformia, pinnipdes are monophyletic.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday, February 25, 1997 was delivered by **William Burger,** Curator, Vascular Plants, Department of Botany, Field Museum. Bill posed the heretical question "Is the cotyledon of a monocot homologous with the cotyledon(s) of a dicot?". The comparative embryology of seed plants has generally been interpreted to infer homology of the cotyledon(s), with the monocot condition derived from the dicot condition. Bill described the embryology of water lilies (Nymphaeales) as having paired lateral dicotyledons as well as a median monocotyledon, a condition which forces a negative answer to his initial question. He noted that the unusual embryology of water lilies is shared with ferns. Bill concluded with a new question "Which came first, the monocot embryo or the dicot embryo?".

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon.

Printed on recycled paper.